

Application No.: 10/076,172

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Docket No.: 306812002000

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on March 2, 2005, claims 1-8 and 10-20 were rejected, and claim 9 was objected to. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 10, 12, and 15-17 have been amended, and claims 4, 11, and 18 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 16 were objected to for certain informalities. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to correct the informalities as suggested by the Examiner.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 10, 11, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,191,609 (the Chan reference). Claims 11 and 18 have been canceled.

Independent claims 1, 10, and 17 have been amended to recite that the third set of [clock] lines are connected to the first set of [clock] lines and the second set of [clock] lines. Applicants assert that the Chan reference fails to disclose or suggest this feature.

In particular, the Chan reference discloses a global clock structure and a plurality of localized clock structures (see FIGs. 1 and 2) that are separate. As depicted in FIGs. 1 and 2, in the Chan reference, the global clock structure and each of the plurality of localized clock structures have separate pins to receive clock signals and separate lines to carry the clock signals. For example, in FIG. 1, global clock structure 12 includes a pin 16 to receive an input clock signal and lines 18, 22, and 24 to carry the input clock signal. (Column 3, lines 10-24.) A localized clock structure 14 includes a separate pin 26 to receive an input clock signal and lines 28 to carry the input clock signal. The Chan reference does not disclose a motivation for connecting the global clock structure 12 to the localized clock structures 14.

Thus, Applicants assert that claims 1, 10, and 17 are allowable. Additionally, Applicants assert that claim 17 is allowable for at least the reason that it depends from an allowable independent claim.

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III. Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 2-8, 12-15, and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Chan reference in view of US Patent No. 5,172,579 (the Duong reference). Claim 4 has been canceled. For the reasons set forth above with regard to claims 1, 10, and 17, Applicants assert that claims 2, 3, 5-8, 12-15, and 19 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claims.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 9 was objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. For the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1, Applicants assert that claim 9 is allowable for at least the reason that it depends from an allowable independent claim.

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V. Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and/or the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 306812002000. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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